

## News in Times of Conflict

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# News in Times of Conflict

*The Development of the German Newspaper, 1605–1650*

*By*

Jan Hillgärtner



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## Terminology, Dates, Titles and Translation

The term 'newspaper' relates to a very specific form of print characterised by its four main features: periodicity, contemporaneity, universality and public availability. A newspaper appears in regular intervals (periodicity); the lowest frequency being a weekly newspaper with one issue per week. Daily newspapers with six issues per week, not including Sundays, began to appear in 1650. Newspapers provide the latest and most up to date news (contemporaneity). The range of topics found within the coverage is wide and not limited to one subject (universality). Early modern periodicals typically covered political, societal and monarchical matters as well as topics ranging from wars and conflicts to crime, commerce and ephemeral matters. The cheap price of the newspaper and its distribution either via subscriptions or retail sales in bookshops and on markets means that newspapers are relatively widely available for the reading public (public availability). Throughout the work I use the terms 'newspapers', 'periodicals' and 'press' interchangeably.

The dates are given as they appear in the newspapers, unless otherwise specified. Pope Gregory XIII introduced the new style calendar in 1582 and it gradually replaced the old Julian calendar. The confessional divide within the Holy Roman Empire meant that the Julian and Gregorian calendars were used simultaneously throughout the empire. The Catholic Imperial Estates and territories under Catholic administration were the first to adopt the new calendar in their regions and gradually other cities and principalities elsewhere in Germany introduced it too over the course of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century. In the newspaper world it is often impossible to discern whether a printer applied the Julian or Gregorian calendar and thus dates have been left as they appear in the newspapers. The exception to this rule are canonised dates such as the deaths of Gustavus Adolphus (6 November 1632) and Charles Stuart (30 January 1649) for which the Gregorian calendar has become the definite date in historiography.

German-language newspapers of the seventeenth century changed their titles frequently. Many of the earliest periodicals appeared entirely without a standard title; rather they used either the place of correspondence as heading of the first page or changed title structure and numbering system from issue to issue. To simplify the discussion of each respective newspaper, this work discusses each respective newspaper using the standard titles set forth by Bogel and Blühm in their bibliography. This explains the occasional discrepancy between a title as it is spelled out in the text and in the footnotes.

All translations in this book have been done by the author, unless stated otherwise. The semantic shift in German from the seventeenth century to today means that often a verbatim translation of the source failed to capture the meaning of the sentence. German of this period was furthermore prone to long and winding sentences, interspersed with Latin vocabulary. The author has strived to provide an accurate as well as an intuitive translation and therefore occasionally broken up the sentence structure of the source text to achieve this goal. The modern English spelling has been used for places and individuals. The exception to this rule are Danzig (now Gdańsk), Königsberg (now Kaliningrad), Breslau (now Wrocław), Stettin (now Szczecin), Constantinople (now Istanbul) and Smyrna (now Izmir). Printed sources have been identified by their Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) number in square brackets in the footnotes and by their VD17 numbers in case no USTC record exists. Newspapers have been cited using the place of publication, printer and year.